4   wherein said request for said service is received at a system located separately from

5   said client;

6   wherein said request is sent by a particular user;

7   within said system generating, based on a first set of parameters, a request object;

8   wherein said first set of parameters includes identity of said service;

9   based on said request object, said system transmitting requests to one or more data

10   sources;

11   at said system receiving responses to said requests from said one or more data sources

12   in one or more formats other than a particular format;

13   at said system converting said responses into said particular format;

14   at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in

15   said particular format;

16   at said system transforming said composite response document into a client-formatted

17   response based on a second set of parameters;

18   wherein said second set of parameters includes identity of said particular type of

19   client; and

20   at said system transmitting said client-formatted response to said particular user.

1   17. (ONCE AMENDED) A system for transferring information between devices, the

2   system comprising:

3   a request preprocessor, which is located separately from clients, configured to

4   receive service requests from said clients,

5   generate request objects for said service requests, and

6   pass said request objects to a request processor, which is located separately

7   from said clients;

8   said request processor operatively coupled to said request preprocessor and to one or

9   more gateways, said request processor being configured to respond to said

10   request objects by transmitting requests to data sources through said one or

11   more gateways;

12   said one or more gateways operatively coupled between said request processor and

13   said data sources, said one or more gateways being configured to

14   translate between a particular format and one or more other formats,

15   convert said requests to said one or more other formats prior to issuing said

16   requests to said data sources,

17   convert responses from said data sources to said particular format, and

18   pass said responses in said particular format to said request processor;

19   wherein said request processor is further configured to generate composite response

20   documents in said particular format based on said responses, and to pass said

21   composite response documents to a post processor;

22   said post processor operatively coupled to said request processor, said post processor

23   being configured to

24   transform said composite response documents from said particular format to

25   client-specific responses having formats required by clients, and

26   transmit said client-specific response documents to said clients.

22. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable medium bearing instructions for retrieving

2   information from one or more data sources, the computer-readable medium including

3   instructions for performing the steps of:

4   receiving, from a particular type of client, a request for a service;

5   wherein said request for said service is received at a system located separately from

6   said client;

7   wherein said request is sent by a particular user;

8   within said system generating, based on a first set of parameters, a request object;

9   wherein said first set of parameters includes identity of said service;

10 based on the request object, said system transmitting requests to one or more data

11   sources;

12 at said system receiving responses to said requests from said one or more data sources

13   in one or more formats other than a particular format;

14 at said system converting said responses into said particular format;

15 at said system generating, based on said responses, a composite response document in

16   said particular format;

17 at said system transforming said composite response document into a client-formatted

18   response based on a second set of parameters;

19 wherein said second set of parameters includes identity of said particular type of

20   client; and

21 at said system transmitting said client-formatted response to said particular user.